

Both nations and men today are conducting themselves much as did the disciples while on their way to Jerusalem with Jesus for the last time. Let me read to you that portion from the tenth chapter of Mark which will enable you to make the comparison for yourselves.

National rulers and leaders may be divided into two classes: the one seeking primarily to advance the interests of their own country and of themselves, and the other working for the welfare of all nations great and small. We hold to be an enemy that nation which is seeking to rule the world in defiance of all other nations. We hold in contempt the men who wrest from a world that is being crucified and slaughtered gains to satisfy their own selfish ambitions.

It was the selfish ambition of James and John that turned the other disciples against them, not because the ten had no personal ambition, but rather because they had and consequently became jealous. Selfish ambition in private enterprise and in national affairs is the cause of nearly all our troubles. As it is in the world so it is in the churches. Incidents insignificant in themselves and things petty have divided the churches and have split congregations because Xns are inclined to put their own interests first and the welfare of the Kingdom of God last.

As the suffering Saviour taught the disciples to seek for their greatness, not in position and authority, but in sacrificing service, so the suffering world today is teaching the nations and their leaders that self-interest must be subordinated to the larger interests of all mankind, and that national greatness depends, not upon ruling the world, but upon working unselfishly for the good of all. ~~Self~~ Self-interest in itself is not sinful but only becomes so when made the dominating motive of conduct. He who excludes from his world one single person must enlarge his world or time will wreck it.

When the whole of mankind becomes the self-interest of every nation and of every individual, all wrongs will be righted and all differences adjusted in equity. But until that time comes we must seek to overcome the prevailing self-interest which is selfish, greedy and cruel. Let us join the company of disciples this morning and learn from the Master Teacher how to do it.

With what yearning in his heart did Jesus ask James and John, "Can ye drink of the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?" And how little did those disciples realize what they were saying when they answered, "We are able;" With the same yearning of heart Jesus is saying to his people today, "Are ye able to drink the cup that I drink?" With a new emphasis He is saying it to us across the battlefields of the world.

This morning we are sobered by the thought that within the next six months the greatest effort of the enemy is to be put forth. Our boys will have taken their places alongside of the English and French and Italians. etc.etc. From out the carnage of this coming Spring and thru the sufferings of our own sons of America the Captain of our Salvation is saying to our nation and to our churches, "Are ye able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?" And what is this cup that Christ would have us drink? It is the cup of service and sacrifice. "The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

THE CUP OF SERVICE.

We want our country to win: we must serve in order to win. Each one doing his bit.

Do we Xns want Christ and His Kingdom of God to win? We must serve, every Xn doing his bit.

The lad found at midnight holding his little sister in lap, wrapped in his coat,

THE CUP OF SACRIFICE.

*The boys who will return with
understanding sacrifice of X.*

We stand ready to give our sons, our wealth, ourselves, if necessary, to the gov't.

Why? Because in this world crisis our very democracy, our freedom is at stake.

But we Xns should realize that in this crisis more than the safety of our democracy is at stake; Cty itself is at stake. Shall the world be made safe for Cty? Germany knows no god but the state, Africa may know no god but Muhammed, S.America may know no god but commercialism, if all Xns do not serve the cause of Christ loyally and faithfully, and sacrifice their sons and daughters and dollars and selves freely.

I want this Communion today to signify our consecration to Jesus Christ in loving and sacrificing service on behalf of the salvation of the whole world.

Out of such service and sacrifice Xns will be united, cooperating together to do the big things necessary to be done. The cheap and small and tawdry things that now divide us will be thrown aside as we Xns present a united front to the common enemy of mankind.

Small beginnings, if right and if kept up,
will lead you to the larger ending.

Job 8:7 And tho thy beginning was small,
yet thy latter end would greatly in-
crease."

NEVER LOSE YOUR CONFIDENCE.

Admiral Dupont was once explaining to Farragut the reason why he failed to enter Charleston Harbor with his fleet of ironclads. He gave this reason and that reason and the other reason; and Farragut remained silent until he got thru, and then said, "Ah, Dupont, there was one more reason." "What was that?" "You didn't believe you could do it".

Faith in your undertakings, confidence in yourself to carry them thru, confidence in others with whom you must deal, absolute trust in God.

BEGIN, and then KEEP PEGGING AWAY.

Alertly, drudgingly, persistently, cheerfully